

1015 N. America Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Miami, Florida 33132  
Phone: (305) 371-7678  
Fax: (305) 347-4852

**Testimony of  
CHARLES A. TOWSLEY  
Director  
Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami-Dade  
on  
Security Measures  
before the  
The Senate Commerce Committee's Surface  
Transportation  
And Merchant Marine Subcommittee**

**January 9, 2002**

**GOOD MORNING. I AM CHARLES A. TOWSLEY,  
DIRECTOR OF THE DANTE B. FASCELL PORT OF MIAMI-  
DADE. THE PORT OF MIAMI IS THE LARGEST  
CONTAINER PORT IN FLORIDA AND AMONG THE TOP**

TEN IN THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY 40 SHIPPING LINES CALLING ON MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES AND 250 PORTS AROUND THE WORLD. OF THESE, 26 CARRIERS SERVE 33 COUNTRIES AND 101 PORTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

LAST YEAR, IN FISCAL YEAR 2001, THE VOLUME OF CARGO MOVING THROUGH THE PORT OF MIAMI REACHED A RECORD 8.2 MILLION TONS, REPRESENTING OVER 955,000 TWENTY FOOT EQUIVALENT UNIT CONTAINERS (TEUs). ALSO LAST FISCAL YEAR, THE PORT OF MIAMI PROCESSED ALMOST 3.4 MILLION MULTI-DAY CRUISE PASSENGERS, THAT WAS THE HIGHEST TOTAL EVER. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THE PORT OF MIAMI'S IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY EXCEEDS \$8.7 BILLION DOLLARS AND 45,000 JOBS. AS EVIDENCED BY THE ABOVE FIGURES,

**WE ARE A CRITICAL LINK IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, IN THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF THE LOCAL REGION, THE STATE, AND NATIONALLY. THUS, IN EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE SAFE MOVEMENTS OF THESE PASSENGERS AND CARGO, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OFFICIALS AND ADMINISTRATORS AT THE DANTE B. FASCELL PORT OF MIAMI-DADE HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY IN THE PAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS TO ENHANCE OUR SECURITY OPERATIONS AT THE PORT.**

**IN 1998, PORT MANAGEMENT IDENTIFIED SECURITY AREAS THAT COULD BE TIGHTENED. THE RESULT OF THOSE EFFORTS LED TO SEVERAL GROUND BREAKING AND MILESTONE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S SEAPORT SECURITY LEGISLATION, LOCALLY REFERRED TO AS CHAPTER**

**28A OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**THIS SECURITY ORDINANCE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REQUIRED THAT THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT CONDUCT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL PERSONS WORKING IN SECURE AREAS OF THE SEAPORT BEFORE THEY RECEIVE A REQUIRED SEAPORT IDENTIFICATION BADGE, A PREREQUISITE TO WORKING IN RESTRICTED AREAS OF THE PORT. THIS PRACTICE HAS SINCE BEEN PASSED INTO LAW IN FLORIDA AND WILL SOON BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL FLORIDA DEEPWATER PORTS, AS DEFINED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA.**

**DRUG AND SMUGGLING INTERDICTION HAS ALSO BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AT THE PORT OF MIAMI. THE PORT OF MIAMI**

CONTINUES TO BE PROACTIVE IN ADDRESSING ALL ISSUES PERTAINING TO SECURITY. IN ADDITION TO WORKING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO TIGHTEN SECURITY, THE PORT IS ALSO WORKING CLOSELY WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY FUNDING FOR SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS SUCH AS HIGH MAST LIGHTING, ADDITIONAL FENCING, CAMERA SURVEILLANCE, AND INSPECTION EQUIPMENT. PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, THESE ENHANCEMENTS WERE ESTIMATED TO COST \$8.0 MILLION. HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF RECENT SECURITY ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT , MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND COAST GUARD, THE PORT'S NEEDS FOR SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS NOW EXCEED \$24 MILLION. MOREOVER, THESE ASSESSMENTS HAVE ALSO IDENTIFIED ADDITIONAL

**RECURRING OPERATIONAL NEEDS THAT COULD, IN FACT, DOUBLE OR TRIPLE THE PORT'S ANNUAL SECURITY BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY \$4 MILLION.**

**ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THOSE IMPROVEMENTS, THE PORT OF MIAMI HAS ALREADY BEEN INVESTING IN ITS SECURITY PERSONNEL. PRESENTLY, EACH SECURITY OFFICER IS TRAINED IN SEAPORT SECURITY PROCEDURES BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN PORT OPERATIONS. THE TRAINING INCLUDES CRUISE AND CARGO PROCEDURES, TARIFF, SAFETY OPERATIONS, AND HOW TO RESPOND TO HAZMAT AND TERRORISM INCIDENTS. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT IT IS CRITICAL THAT EACH PORT MAINTAIN A HIGHLY TRAINED SECURITY FORCE DEDICATED TO THAT PORT'S OPERATION.**

**ADDITIONALLY, THE PORT OF MIAMI ACTIVELY ASSISTED IN ORGANIZING AND REGULARLY PARTICIPATES AS CO-CHAIR WITH THE U.S. COAST GUARD ON THE SEAPORT SECURITY COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FDLE, CUSTOMS, THE FBI, INS AND OTHERS. MOST RECENTLY THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD HAS ALSO BEEN A PARTICIPANT. THE PORT OF MIAMI'S SECURITY STAFF WORKS HAND-IN-HAND WITH THESE AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS SECURITY ISSUES AT ALL LEVELS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR PASSENGERS AND MARITIME COMMERCE.**

**OTHER ENHANCED SECURITY MEASURES RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED AT THE PORT OF MIAMI INCLUDE COMPUTERIZED GATE SECURITY, ID BADGE AND**

PERMITTING SYSTEMS CAPABLE OF VALIDATING INFORMATION FROM ONE TO THE OTHER; AND THE INSTALLATION OF FOUR STOLEN AUTOMOBILE RECOVER SYSTEM GAMMA RAY TECHNOLOGY MACHINES, DESIGNED TO DETECT CONTRABAND VEHICLES OR EQUIPMENT INSIDE CARGO CONTAINERS ILLEGALLY MOVING THROUGH THE PORT.

FUTURE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS WILL INCLUDE SECURITY OVERLAY PLANS ON PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AT THE PORT. FOR INSTANCE, THE DESIGN OF NEW CRUISE TERMINALS, STORAGE SHEDS, AND/OR PARKING GARAGES, WILL INCORPORATE SECURITY COMPONENTS, WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONTEMPLATED IN THE PAST AT THE LEVEL NOW BEING REQUIRED.



I WOULD BE REMISS, HOWEVER, IF I DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE COOPERATION WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR PORT USERS, OR PARTNERS, AS I LIKE TO CALL THEM, IN HELPING THE PORT OF MIAMI BE A MORE SECURED PORT. IN ADDITION TO SPENDING SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN NEW GATE SYSTEMS, CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS, LIGHTING, AND OTHER SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE, OUR PARTNERS HAVE PATIENTLY ENDURED THE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC DELAYS RESULTING FROM CONGESTION GENERATED BY THE MORE STRINGENT DOCUMENT PROCESSING AND OTHER SECURITY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE PORT.

THE PORT OF MIAMI WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH U.S. CUSTOMS, U.S. COAST GUARD, IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, USDA, FLORIDA

**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, MIAMI-DADE  
POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN  
STRENGTHENING ITS SECURITY.**

**BEFORE CONCLUDING MY REMARKS TODAY, I WANT TO  
THANK THE MANY AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AT BOTH  
THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS WHO HAVE  
DEMONSTRATED CONCERN FOR SECURITY IN OUR  
SEAPORTS. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE PORT OF MIAMI HAS  
SIGNIFICANT UNFUNDED SECURITY NEEDS WHICH MUST  
BE ADDRESSED IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND YOUR  
ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING SUCH FUNDING WILL BE  
GREATLY APPRECIATED NOT ONLY BY THE PORT OF  
MIAMI BUT ALSO BY THE ENTIRE MARITIME COMMUNITY.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION.**